

## REMARKS

The Office Action of November 30, 2009, has been carefully reviewed, and in view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the above Office Action, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that Claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under Section 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Responsive to this indication of allowance subject matter, and in an effort to expedite prosecution, claim 1 has been amended to include allowable claim 5, and intervening claims 3 and 4. Hence, claims 3-5 have been canceled.

Claim 1 has also been amended to overcome the rejection under Section 112, second paragraph. More particularly, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the first bath row extends from an input station located at a first end of the staining machine to an opposite end of the first bath row located at a second end of the staining machine, and that the second bath row extends from an output station located at the first end of the staining machine to an opposite end of the second bath row located at the second end of the staining machine. Claim 1 has been further amended to include the limitations of claims 3 -5, which further define the structural features of the staining machine which provide for the transport of the baskets. Finally, "predetermined treatment program" is not intended to include or require a controller but rather, indicates that the baskets are transported in accordance with a predetermined plan or regiment.

### CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the present application are now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is earnestly solicited.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application; the Examiner is kindly invited to call the undersigned counsel for Applicant regarding the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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